

CORRESPONDENCE.

OVERLAPPING APONEUROSIS IN SUTURE OF ABDOMINAL WOUNDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ANNALS OF SURGERY:

IN the ANNALS OF SURGERY for the month of March of the current year two articles have been contributed—one by Mr. Noble and another by Mr. Flint. In both articles the authors have shown that they are unfamiliar with the results of Russian investigation respecting the question. Mr. Noble ("Overlapping of the abdominal wall—including umbilical, ventral, and inguinal herniæ") recommends the overlapping of the aponeurosis of one edge of the wound on the aponeurosis of the other edge of the wound, in the closures of wounds of the abdominal wall, and quotes some authors who applied the same kind of stitch before him or contemporaneously. Mr. Noble does not, however, say anything at all about such a method of sewing up abdominal wounds having been recommended as early as the year 1900 by Professor Sapiejhko, who has described it in Russian publications (*Annals of Russian Surgery*, 1900) as well as in foreign ones (*Revue de Chirurgie*, *Centralbl. für Chirurgie*, etc.). No mention is made of the fact that a similar process was made use of by me even in 1898, which has also been described in Russian (Report of the Surg. Klinik of the Twerskaja Association of Sisters of Mercy of from 15th October, 1896, to 31st December, 1898, Moscow, 1899, page 150. *The Surgery*, 1899, vol. V, p. 471. Lectures on oper. surgery by Prof. P. T. Diakonow, Prof. F. A. Rein, Prof. N. K. Lysenkow, priv-doc. N. T. Napalkow, p. 112) and in other languages (*Die medicinische Woche.*, 1900, 2d April).

As regards the other paper, by Mr. Flint ("A New Method of Excision of the Knee Without Opening the Joint"), it can be said that that method, spoken of by the author as "new,"

is in reality very old; it was applied (see Falkenberg's work) by Manne in 1879, by Mulder in 1809, and in 1871 by Wladim-irow. It has afterwards been again tried by a whole series of Russian surgeons (Wolkowitch, Sapiejhko, Sabanejew, Falkenberg). The results of their operations have been described in *The Physician*, 1896, and cited in the *Centralblatt für Chirurgie*.

Your very truly,

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Ord. Prof.

Moscow, RUSSIA, May 6, 1906.

All contributions for publication, books for review, and exchanges should be sent to the Editorial Office, 386 Grand Ave., Brooklyn, New York.